

Seattle Community Court News

"A nontraditional approach to address traditional problems"

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Community Service- Danny Woo Garden – Jonathan Chen

My name is Jonathan Chen and I work for Interim CDA as the Danny Woo Community Garden Manager. Danny Woo Community Garden has been a recreational, cultural, and social gathering space for the low-income elderly immigrant population living in the International District for the past 35 years. The garden is on a terraced hillside, divided into roughly 100 plots, and shared by 67 gardeners. The gardeners are from China, Korea, Taiwan, the Philippines, Mexico, and the United States. Their average age is 76 years old.

Interim CDA partnered with Community Court in June 2008, and the garden has since then acted as a host site about twice every month for roughly 9 months of the year. Participants of Community Court tackle a number of tasks in the garden, including picking up litter, weeding, mulching pathways, making compost piles, digging trenches for irrigation, and building stone retaining walls. On some occasions if Community Court has participants who are trained and experienced in agriculture or landscaping, their talents are utilized for more challenging jobs in the garden.



One of the most essential roles Community Court performs is consistently cleaning up litter and emptying out the garbage cans situated throughout the 1.5 acre garden. Given the size of the garden and its proximity to downtown, litter is a significant problem and Community Court offers an invaluable service in our effort to maintain such a beautiful oasis amid a concrete jungle. Moreover, the garden also depends heavily on the human power that Community Court provides when undertaking large projects like building stone retaining walls or clearing away blackberry thickets.

I cannot imagine how I would be able to manage the Danny Woo Community Garden as effectively as I do now without the aid of Community Court. Our two-and-a-half year partnership has become a cornerstone for successful community garden management.

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Seattle Community Court has a Logo – Nancy Waldman



Tuere Sala Presenting the New Seattle Community Court Logo

(Photo Courtesy of Burns Petersen)

Seattle Community Court has a logo! As our innovative and exciting court has grown and evolved over the last 6 years, we have felt an increasing desire to develop a distinctive logo that would give a recognizable “face” to our program. Unfortunately, there were no funds available to make that happen.

In a show of support for the positive contributions that we make to our participants and public safety, a remarkably creative and talented graphic designer generously created a wonderful logo for us at an extremely reasonable rate! Mark Muktoyuk, of Claret Hound Design, worked with members of our Communications Committee for several months to design something instantly recognizable as referring to Seattle while at the same time unique to Community Court.

Check out Mark’s website at [flickr.com/people/clarethound](https://www.flickr.com/people/clarethound) to see examples of his work. You can also contact him at (520) 794-7292 or clarethound@yahoo.com to talk about your own project.

We’re very excited to introduce our new logo to the public. We hope you’ll agree that it’s perfect.

A Day in the Life: Neighborhood Correction Initiative – Tuere Sala

Seattle Community Court (SCC) continues to be a successful program due in large part to its strong commitment to immediacy and accountability. The most significant enforcement tool we have to maintain this commitment is our partnership with the Neighborhood Correction Initiative (NCI). Established in the mid-1990s, NCI teams patrol Seattle streets to arrest individuals with outstanding bench warrants and engage with the homeless who comprise over 50% of Community Court Participants. The initiative enables local law enforcement officers to partner with Department of Correction Officers and create proactive teams that improve overall community safety and support crime prevention/reduction measures.

At the end of each court session SCC provides NCI with the names of all defendants who failed to appear for court. Most defendants are arrested within a couple of weeks, but it is not uncommon for a defendant to be arrested the very same day. Many defendants have spoken of this being the reason they follow through with their obligations. This quick turnaround is possible because NCI officers know Seattle streets and are familiar with the people who frequent them.

In addition to supporting the Community Court, the NCI team also provides services to Seattle’s homeless. This large segment of Seattle’s population often goes unnoticed by the average citizen. The NCI team provides much needed

support and supplies, such as socks, coats, and food. They motivate and encourage the homeless to seek additional support beyond what they are able to provide them.

Since the initiative's establishment, NCI officers have made more than 800,000 contacts. The NCI teams strive to break the cycle of crime common to many offenders by providing them with alternatives to incarceration that might include drug dependency treatment or social service contacts. Many times, NCI's presence can be just the intervention or diversion needed to prevent criminal activity.

In 2008, NCI was given the Seattle Police Chief's Award for contribution to community safety. On November 5, 2010, NCI was recognized for its outstanding contribution to Seattle Community Court at the fall Community Advisory Board Meeting.

First Annual International Conference for Community Courts – Tuere Sala



October 19 – 20, 2010 several members of Seattle Community Court attended Community Justice 2010: The International Conference of Community Courts. It was a fascinating and informative conference, beginning with a video statement of support from Eric Holder, the US Attorney General.

The first day was dedicated to getting to know the distinctive nature of community courts. Several community courts throughout the country discussed how they link defendants with services. There was an interactive lunch that was equally engaging as it provided attendees an opportunity to discuss examples of interesting, innovative or inspiring community engagement or community service initiatives within their unique courts. The examples were then shared with the entire room.

In other segments we explored ways in which learning from failure can enhance the work of community court practitioners, discussed how to balance the desires of collaborative courts with the rights of defendants and learned how the international courts from Canada, England and Australia differ from US courts.

The second day highlighted the nuts and bolts of community court operations. We learned how assessment tools and intervention strategies help community courts achieve better results with offenders. We attended several break-out sessions to discuss problems community courts face. We discussed a wide range of issues including: structural problems with gathering/using data, marketing, funding, offender re-entry issues, obtaining sufficient resources, sex trafficking and a host of other issues.

The Conference ended with several members attending the South Dallas Community Court calendar and touring their impressive community center.

Metropolitan Improvement District – Partnership for a Cleaner Downtown

More than 270 Community Service Workers Participated in MID Partnership in 2010

MID Public Relations Manager

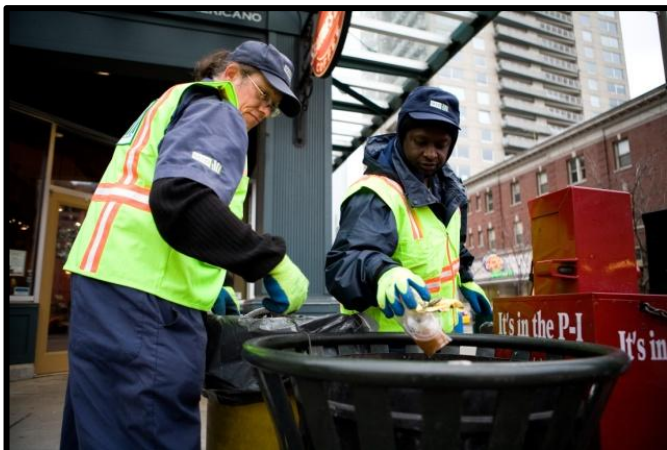
Metropolitan Improvement District (MID) is a non-profit service organization that provides cleaning and hospitality services, as well as destination marketing, research and market analysis for Downtown Seattle. Founded by the Downtown Seattle Association (DSA) in 1999, the MID is financed through tax assessments on Downtown properties and covers a 225 square block area in Downtown Seattle's core. Each day, approximately 40 MID Downtown Ambassadors patrol the streets of the Denny Triangle, Pioneer Square, Retail Core, Waterfront and West Edge neighborhoods in order to maintain Seattle's healthy, vibrant urban core.



Founded by Downtown Seattle Association

In 2005, the MID assisted in the launch of the Community Court program by providing important grant money enabling the project to pay staff salaries during the start-up phase and begin operations. Since then the MID and Seattle Community Court have worked together to provide the option of community service over incarceration to low-level offenders.

"We have had the privilege of being partners with the Metropolitan Improvement District for the past six years and they were an influential part of the development of our Community Court," said Kent Hay, a Community Court probation counselor. "This partnership has benefited both our Court and the Downtown business district. The MID has consistently accepted our Community Service workers and has treated them with dignity and respect. In return, our Community Service workers have reflected the pride that they have in giving back to the community through their reparation to the City of Seattle. We are most appreciative of the partnership with the MID and look forward to continuing our relationship in the years to come."



Accompanied by a MID Downtown Ambassador, eligible Community Court program participants set out in Downtown Seattle to complete identified cleaning tasks, including help with street sweeping, leaf and trash pick-up, graffiti removal, pressure washing and more in the five MID neighborhoods. In 2010, a total of 272 Community Courts program participants assisted the MID in their effort to keep Downtown Seattle clean, completing more than 3,400 hours of valuable work.

"This partnership is a great opportunity for the Downtown community and criminal justice system to work together to restore the health of our MID neighborhoods," said DSA President Kate Joncas. "We are proud to help a program that has such positive long term outcomes for prior offenders by providing access to jobs and counseling, while also enhancing the urban environment."

To learn more about the Metropolitan Improvement District, visit www.DowntownSeattle.com.